

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system conducting cashless business transactions, comprising:

a plurality of fuel dispensers, each dispenser having at least one antenna and at least one vehicle presence detector, said at least one vehicle presence detector performing automatic detection of a vehicle;

a controller ~~adapted to read~~ reading information from a tag connected to ~~[[a]] the~~ vehicle when the vehicle is detected by said at least one vehicle presence detector ~~and is in proximity to an antenna corresponding to the detector;~~ and

a point of sale computer ~~adapted to receive~~ receiving tag information from the controller and ~~adapted to process~~ processing the tag information to conduct a cashless business transaction.

2. (Currently Amended) A system conducting cashless business transactions, comprising:

a plurality of dispensers, each dispenser being associated with at least one antenna and at least one vehicle presence detector, said at least one vehicle presence detector performing automatic detection of a vehicle;

a controller ~~adapted to receive~~ receiving a detection notification from a first vehicle presence detector, the first vehicle presence detector being associated with a first dispenser, ~~and to activate~~ the controller activating a first antenna in response to the notification;

a tag interrogator connected to the at least one antenna and transmitting an interrogation signal to a tag through the first antenna and ~~adapted to receive~~ receiving information from the tag after the first antenna is activated; and

a point of sale device receiving the information from the tag interrogator and activating the first dispenser.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the information comprises a unique customer identification number.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the information comprises customer frequent purchase information.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is connected to the point of sale device.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising:
a network host for receiving the information from the point of sale device, linking the information to a customer's account, and authorizing a transaction.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the point of sale device activates the first dispenser after a transaction has been authorized.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein a transaction is not authorized until a customer enters a personal identification number in the point of sale device.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the tag is a sticker radio frequency identification tag.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein before activating the first dispenser the point of sale device validates the tag and offers a customer an option to pay through an account associated with the customer.
11. (Withdrawn) A method for validating a tag, comprising:
receiving tag write data from a point of sale device after a tag detection start message has been sent to the point of same device; and
writing the tag write data into the tag.
12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein data is written to the tag for authentication.
13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein data is written to the tag with information to be carried with the tag for use in future transactions.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY BY APPLICANT

At the outset, the Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the telephone interview conducted August 22, 2005.

During the interview, the Applicant's representative discussed the outstanding grounds of rejection, using the following arguments. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner reads the claim limitation directed to the vehicle presence detector on the software using the antenna 107. However, if that were the case, the antenna could never be activated in response to a notification from the vehicle presence detector, since an antenna which was in an inactive state could not supply the notification to activate itself.

In response, the Examiner proposed addressing both the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the rejections over the prior art by amending the functional language in the claims to change "a controller adapted to receive..." to "a controller receiving..." and the like. He also proposed that the Applicant amend the recitation of the vehicle presence detector to recite the manner in which it detects the presence of the vehicle, to distinguish over known systems in which the user swipes a payment card over a reader on the pump. Finally, he indicated that it would be helpful to explain in the Amendment why the invention would have been non-obvious over simply using transponders at a gas station.